

Academic Testing Program

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Summary

The Army National Guard offers Soldiers funding for certain academic tests. The Academic Testing program can help Soldiers complete an educational credential, gain college entrance, earn credit in a specific area of study without taking the course, and complete certification requirements. The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) sponsors a wide range of examination programs to assist service members in meeting their educational goals. Exams eligible for ARNG funding and reimbursement include the High School Equivalency exam, undergraduate entrance exams, credit-by-exam tests, graduate school entrance exams, and teacher certifications.

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Exam Summary

Test Name	Test Definition	Funding Information
American College Test (ACT)	The ACT is a college admissions test designed to assess general educational development and measure the performance of intellectual tasks required of a college student. The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Approximately 3,700 colleges and universities, scholarship agencies and state education systems require or recommend the ACT.	ARNG Soldiers are authorized to take one funded administration of either the ACT or SAT for a Service or education requirement. The ACT is not funded or reimbursed if it is taken at a civilian test center. Therefore, in order for ARNG Soldiers to take an ACT free-of-charge they must take the test through a DANTES Test Center. ARNG State Education Services Offices typically serve as DANTES Test Centers and these centers can administer the ACT at any time. ACT retesting is authorized on a funded basis when a "current"

		ACT score is required by Service regulations, such as application for an officer commissioning program.
College Level Examination Program (CLEP)	The CLEP consists of a series of examinations that test an individual's college level knowledge gained through course work, independent study, cultural pursuits, travel, special interests, military service schools, and professional development. CLEP General and Subject examinations are accepted for credit by more than 2,900 colleges and universities.	<p>The cost of a CLEP test is covered for ARNG Soldiers, their spouses and federal civilian employees of the ARNG.</p> <p>DANTES authorizes the up-front funding of the CLEP Computer Based Test (eCBT) test fee for eligible military and civilian examinees at National Test Centers (\$77 per test). Examinees must pay the advance, non-refundable registration fee to reserve a date and time for testing at national testing centers (this fee ranges from \$15 to \$25 per test). "Open" national test centers promote testing services to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and are designated by an American flag. Military identification is required for DANTES-funded testing.</p> <p>The ARNG funds CLEP paper-based exams at DANTES Test Sites for eligible military personnel and for some civilians. There are 14 CLEP paper exams available. In addition, a growing number of military installations are contracting with national test centers to provide CLEP eCBT testing through their on-base education centers. Check with your education center to see if this option is available.</p>
Excelsior College Examinations (ECE)	The Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) are used to meet specific college degree requirements of Excelsior College degrees and are also	In order for ARNG Soldiers to take ECEs free-of-charge they must take the exams at a DANTES Test Center. ARNG State Education Services Offices

	accepted for degree credit by over 900 colleges and universities worldwide. ECEs are available for undergraduate Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, and Nursing programs. The exams cover material taught in lower and upper level undergraduate courses. A college usually grants the same amount of credit to students earning satisfactory scores on ECEs as it grants to students successfully completing related coursework.	typically serve as DANTES Test Centers. Costs associated with taking ECEs at civilian test centers are not reimbursable.
General Education Development (GED) Exam	The GED Exam is the High School diploma equivalency exam. This exam is for individuals who have not completed their formal high school education. The GED Test measures knowledge in five different areas: Language Arts - Writing; Language Arts - Reading; Mathematics, Science; and Social Studies.	<p>Current ARNG Soldiers requiring a GED test should contact their nearest DANTES Test Center/ARNG State Education Services Office to schedule a date to take the GED exam for free.</p> <p>Current Soldiers who entered the ARNG under the split-option enlistment program and subsequently failed to complete high school between Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training must earn a GED in order to remain in the military. The ARNG's GED Plus enlistment option also provides new enlistees with the opportunity to earn their GED prior to shipping to Initial Active Duty for Training. Soldiers enlisted under these programs will be able to take the GED exam for free at a DANTES Test Center.</p>
Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)	The GMAT exam is the assessment for graduate business school candidates. It was designed by business schools to measure the skills	ARNG Soldiers can be reimbursed once for the test fee only. The examinee must seek reimbursement within 90 days from the test date. The examinee

	<p>shown to help graduate business students succeed in the challenging curriculum. A computer-adaptive exam that assesses Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing skills developed over time, the GMAT exam is a valid and reliable predictor of success in graduate business school. The GMAT is delivered via computer in individualized workstations. Being computer-adaptive (rather than computer-based) allows the GMAT to determine a test taker's true ability by selecting questions based on previous answers and the test design.</p>	<p>is responsible for scheduling the test and paying for the GMAT exam up-front. To apply for reimbursement ARNG Soldiers must download the GMAT - Reimbursement Request Form and complete all required information and attach all required documentation. Ensure a DANTES Test Control Officer or Alternate TCO completes and signs the bottom half of Section IV. Your DANTES TCO/ATCO works in your ARNG State Education Services Office. Pearson VUE Test Center personnel are not authorized to complete this section. Submit your request for reimbursement within 90 days of taking the GMAT.</p>
<p>Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)</p>	<p>The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General and Subject Tests are required entrance examinations for many graduate school programs. The GRE General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills that are not related to any specific field of study. The GRE Subject Tests gauge undergraduate achievement in eight specific fields of study and can help forecast a candidate's potential for success in graduate school. Each Subject Test is intended for students who have majored in or have extensive background in that specific area.</p>	<p>Soldiers can be reimbursed for one administration the GRE General "computer-based test" (CBT) test and one administration of a GRE Subject "paper-based" test per lifetime. The GRE General CBT test is available exclusively through Prometric and selective college and university test centers. Registration and scheduling policies and procedures, to include the GRE Information Bulletin, can be found in the GRE section of the Educational Testing Service website. GRE General test fees are \$160 at the National Test Center and \$190 at the International Test Center. ARNG Soldiers can be reimbursed for the test fee only. The examinee must seek reimbursement within 90 days from the test date. The examinee is responsible for scheduling the</p>

		<p>test and paying for the GRE General CBT test up-front.</p> <p>To apply for reimbursement ARNG Soldiers must download the GRE General - Reimbursement Request Form, complete all required information and attach all required documentation. Ensure a DANTES Test Control Officer or Alternate TCO completes and signs the bottom half of Section IV. Your DANTES TCO/ATCO works in your ARNG State Education Services Office. Prometric Test Center personnel are not authorized to complete this section. Submit your request for reimbursement within 90 days of taking the GRE General CBT test. The GRE Subject paper-based tests are available for funded military personnel through an ARNG State Education Services Offices that serve as DANTES Test Centers. No fee is charged at these centers. GRE Subject tests taken at a National Test Center (i.e. college or university) are not reimbursable.</p>
The Praxis Series exams (Praxis I & Praxis II)	<p>The Praxis Series assessments provide educational tests and other services that states use as part of their teacher licensure and certification process. The Praxis I tests measure basic academic skills, and the Praxis II tests measure general and subject-specific knowledge and teaching skills.</p> <p>Praxis I - Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) consists of three separate tests: Reading, Mathematics and Writing. Some</p>	<p>ARNG Soldiers are authorized one (1) funded administration of the Praxis I: PPST (complete or partial) and one (1) funded administration of the Praxis II: Subject Assessments or Specialty Area test, which includes the Principles of Learning and Teaching test, per lifetime at a DANTES Test Center. ARNG State Education Services Offices typically serve as DANTES Test Centers and they only offer paper-based Praxis tests during set periods</p>

	<p>states require students entering college-level teacher-preparation programs to pass the PPST; other states, however, use the PPST as a teacher-licensing exam.</p> <p>Praxis II Measures knowledge of specific K-12 subjects. Praxis offers over 100 tests, including the Principles of Learning and Teaching test. Some states use these tests to credential or certify a teacher to teach in a specific area. These tests vary in terms of format (i.e. multiple-choice, constructed-response, or combined multiple-choice/constructed response); the time limits are either one or two hours.</p>	<p>throughout the year.</p> <p>ARNG Soldiers taking funded paper-based Praxis tests do not register for the tests on the Educational Testing Service website. Instead, they contact their nearest DANTES to request a test for a specific testing date. ARNG Soldiers must pay a non-reimbursable \$50 registration fee per testing year. The fee can be paid by Cashier's Check or Money Order payable to "ETS - The Praxis Series" or by credit card (AMEX, Discover, JCB, MC or Visa). Fees will be collected on the day of the test administration. Praxis tests taken at civilian test centers are not reimbursable.</p>
SAT Reasoning Test	<p>The SAT Reasoning Test is the nation's most widely used admissions test among colleges and universities. It tests students' knowledge of subjects that are necessary for college success: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The SAT assesses the critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college; skills that students learned in high school.</p>	<p>ARNG Soldiers are authorized to take one funded administration of either the SAT or ACT for a Service or education requirement. The SAT is not funded or reimbursed if it is taken at a civilian test center. Therefore, in order for ARNG Soldiers to take an SAT free-of-charge they must take the test through a DANTES Test Center. ARNG State Education Services Offices typically serve as DANTES Test Centers and these centers can administer the SAT at any time, subject to the following restrictions: SAT testing is not authorized from 30 June through 30 September, as the SAT Program shuts down their scoring system during this period to prepare for national testing in October. The ACT is available during this period and throughout the year and SAT retesting is</p>

		<p>authorized on a funded basis when a "current" SAT score is required by Service regulations, such as application for an officer commissioning program.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests are only available at a civilian test center. They cannot be administered at a DANTES Test Center and, therefore, cannot be funded.</p>
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What exams are available to members of the ARNG on a funded basis?

A. The General Education Development (GED) Exam, Undergraduate entrance exams including the SAT Reasoning Test and the American College Test (ACT), Credit-by-Exam tests including the Excelsior, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams, graduate school entrance exams including the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), and teacher certification exams including the Praxis are available for Soldiers to take on a funded basis.

Q. How can I take an exam funded by the ARNG?

A. In most cases, in order to receive funding for examination fees, Soldiers must take exams at a DANTES Test Center. The DANTES Test Control Officer (TCO), who is normally the Education Services Officer for the State administers examinations on more than 560 military installations. These centers are often located at ARNG State Education Services Offices. In most cases, tests taken at civilian testing centers are not funded or reimbursed by the ARNG, however with the proper documentation, reimbursement and up-front funding are available for the GRE and the CLEP computer based test (CBT) exams, which may be taken at university or National Test Centers. [Click here](#) to access your State Education Office contact information.

Q. Are there any cases where I will have to pay for exams or exam-related fees?

A. In most cases, the ARNG does not fund exams taken at civilian test centers (though Soldiers and eligible civilians can apply for up-front funding or reimbursement for the GRE and the CLEP Computer Based Test (CBT)). If a Soldier or eligible civilian chooses to take the CLEP CBT at a National Test Center, DANTES authorizes the up-front funding of the test fee, but examinees must pay the advance, non-refundable registration fee to reserve a date and time for testing at national testing centers (this fee ranges from \$15 to \$25 per test).

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Links

- [ARNG Education Home Page](#)
This comprehensive website serves as the premier source for education, incentives, and employment services information as it applies to Army National Guard Soldiers.
- [DANTES Examination Program Home Page](#)
Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) sponsors a wide range of examination programs to assist service members in meeting their educational goals.
- [Educational Testing Service Home Page](#)
The Educational Testing Service provides resources regarding standardized tests including the GRE and Praxis exams.
- [ESC Academic Testing](#)
This Education Support Center Page features an overview of the ARNG Academic Testing program and associated links provide specific information on tests eligible for ARNG funding.
- [Excelsior Exam Home Page](#)
This site serves as a resource for all information regarding Excelsior programs and exams.
- [SAT Preparation Center](#)
Sponsored by the College Board, this site provides extensive SAT preparation materials and information.
- [State Education Office Contact Information](#)
This Education Support Center link provides access to ARNG State Education Office contact information.

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References

Regulations

- [AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System \(ACES\)](#)
- [DoD Instruction 1322.5, Voluntary Education Programs for Military Personnel-Management Information System](#)

Documents and Forms

- [DANTES Form 1560/49, General GRE Reimbursement Request](#)
- [DANTES Examination Program Handbook FY11](#)

- [National Guard Education, Incentives and Employment: Education Benefits Handbook](#)

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Points of Contact

- [ARNG Education Support Center](#)
1-866-628-5999
BOX 46 Camp J.T. Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600
- [Click here to access your State Education Office contact information](#)

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